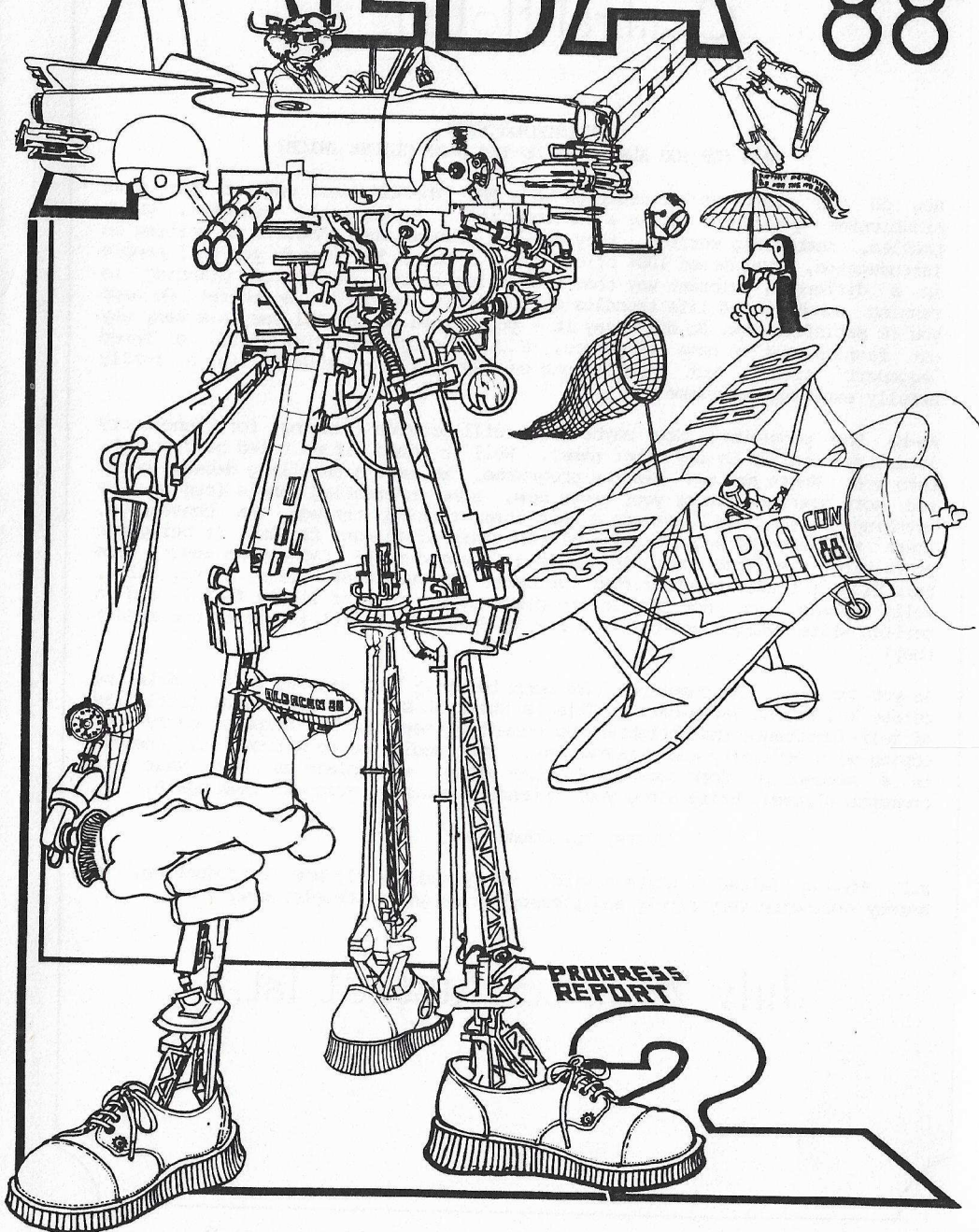


# ALBA CON 88



# Central Hotel

## AN INTRODUCTION PR'S (OR YOU ALWAYS WRITE THE SAME CLICHE TWICE)

How do you start an introduction to a PR? Therein lies one of the most troublesome questions facing a con committee. Forget hotel problems, guest hassles, membership worries - they are but trivial when compared to writing an introduction, guaranteed 100% cliché free. I mean, just how do you tell people in a different, vibrant way that everything in the convention planning is running smoothly and life trundles on? Exactly you can't. So there! We hope you're satisfied now. No don't say it - you wanted us to tell you in a zany way out fashion that we have two guests, C.J. Cherryh and Heinz Wolff, a famed 'eggspert' (corny, but cute), both of whom will be featuring in a really awfully exciting programme.

Ah-ha the programme! Now maybe that will provide a means for innovatory literature (waffle by any other name). Well it could, if we tried hard enough. Lets see. Where are we? Yes the programme. We have a thrilling debate, blood and gore guaranteed, book your seats now, some interesting panels (can we say anything else?) and of course a Mars theme running through the convention. There will also be a celebration of ten years of Glasgow fandom, it being ten years since the first convention. Has it changed much? Can anyone apart from Dave Ellis's flares remember that far back? Hum what else? Films, films, talks, silly events (no, not the entire convention, o ye of little faith) and a ceilidh which reminds you that you are in Scotland. Useful little things aren't they?

As you can see, the committee have been terribly busy arguing a lot, drinking coffee and eating Jaffa-cakes. This is where it's at you know! That little ray of self-importance that brightens up committee meetings and helps us carry on, coping with adversity and disagreement, what would you do without it? Answers on a membership form please. Do come along, same place as last year (no comments please), bring along your friends - you may never see them again.

Yours, the committee

P.S. Having failed to write a wild, wacky and utterly new introduction, we hereby apologise very nicely and please can we go out to play now?

## July 29th. to August 1st.



# PROGRAMME

## FILM BUFFS CHALLENGE

### ALBACON AUCTION

Are you interested in rare SF books and ephemera? Yes? Good, next question, can you afford to pay for it?

This year Albacon will be having an auction of rare and valuable books and SF related bits and pieces.

The auction will take place at Albacon on Sunday 31st July 1988. We will accept postal bids so attending is not compulsory. Among the items in the auction already confirmed are a first edition, signed copy of *STORMBRINGER* by MICHAEL MOORCOCK and *THE IMMORTAL STORM* by SAM MOSKOWITZ.

Send £1 for a catalogue to: ALBACON AUCTION, c/o MARK MEENAN, "BURNAWN", STIRLING ROAD, DUMBARTON, G82 2PJ.

#### THE EVER POPULAR ALBACON CEILIDH

Once again folks it's time to waggle yer wallies, shoogie yer sporrans, birrri yer bahookie and get on down!

Aye folks, it's the deil tak the hindmaist at the ceilidh [kay-lee] of ceilidhs.

The Albacon Committee (purveyors of the finest hyperball in fandom) is quite proud to present "Clyde Built" with Bob Blair as caller, appearing at the conceilidh. Yes, the only thing more Scottish than "Highlander" or Andy Stewart.

Whee-ooch, step now gaily on we go, through the heather, mist, haggis droppings and Edinburgh rock.

See you there, Jimmy! I'll be the one chasing the Dashing White Sergeant!

Following the success of the last quiz at ALBACON III, I have compiled a new quiz with a new format. It will still be individual contestants, with John Allardice defending his title. As well as quick question rounds, the musical BITS N' PIECES round will return, also individual specialist rounds and a FILM PROPS round based on the Props bag game in Telly Addicts.

To enter, answer the following questions and send your answers to me:

Michelle (CUDDLES) Drayton, 31 Graham Terrace, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64.

All envelopes should be marked "FILM BUFFS CHALLENGE" and must reach me by 24th July 1988. See you there!

1. In which film did number five come alive?
2. Who directed "Escape From New York"?
3. In "Aliens", what is the name of the 'droid?

#### 'PREFAB TROUT'

##### - TEN YEARS OF GLASGOW FANDOM

A representative panel of fans, from Glasgow and elsewhere, will look at the nature of Glasgow fandom since the first convention, evaluating the contribution made by conventions and Trout. How much has it changed in ten years? What is there left to attract newcomers and retain interest? Is there enough life for fandom to survive at all? Come along to air your views and show your support for Glasgow fandom.

#### HORROR READING

Imagine the scene, it's midnight, a storm is brewing, unnaturally for the time of year, the lights are out and the hall is lit by candles, the door closes entrapping a hall of terrified people. The high priest stands, accompanied by a flash of lightning and a peal of thunder, he reads from the ancient tome in front of him the secrets of the ancient masters of Darkness. We implore you, stay away from this programme item if you value your sanity.

## THE FILM PROGRAMME

Some of the titles we listed in PR 1 have had to be replaced due to a misunderstanding by Filmbank Distributors.

**FIRST MEN IN THE MOON:-** This film was co-scripted by Nigel Kneal of "Quatermass" fame and closely follows H.G. Wells' fantasy about a British Moon landing in 1899. It's all jolly fun and the SFX by Ray Harryhausen are trippin'.

**FLASH GORDON:-** Gung Ho! adventure in this vividly colourful 80's remake of the Flash Gordon serials of the 30's. Sam.J.Jones (who?), plays our hero with great verve and energy, straight from the comic book. Oh! sorry, great soundtrack too.

**BARBARELLA:-** Flash Gordon in drag....

**DAY MARS INVADERS:-** A rip off of 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' in an unusual (and unbelievable) tale about Martians taking over Earth to prevent Earthlings taking over Mars (chance would be a fine thing).

**BILLY THE KID VS DRACULA:-** Sorry folks! Jesse James was run out of a town by the film library, so we called on Billy the Kid. No point in outlining the story here, suffice to say THIS IS A TURKEY !.

**BLADE RUNNER:-** Na na, na na na.. Ba ba, ba, ba ba ba... Dee, dee, dee, dee, de de... Hm, hm, hm, hm, hm.... We remember the tune but we forgot the words.

**STAR WARS:-** Little seen movie about a boy who sets out to buy a robot and ends up saving the Universe.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS:-** From the makers of 'Rocky Horror Picture Show', comes this weird and wonderful musical about a singing plant with a disgusting dietary necessity. Good catchy songs and outrageous performances from the cast, especially Steve Martin. You'll never look your dentist straight in the teeth again after this one.

**STAR TREK IV - THE VOYAGE HOME:-** Captain Kirk and Co. have a 'whale' of a time travelling back to 20th. century San Francisco in a brave attempt to save an ignorant World from a destruction of its own making. Highly conversational and

quite enjoyable.

We hasten to add that this is not the complete programme of films we will be screening, others are being sought out and bookings will be confirmed presently.

## THE MEAL

Following the success of the meal at last year's Albacon, we have decided to organise another convention dinner. We know that over the last few years convention meals have, rightly, received a reputation for being bad value for money. However the meal which the Central provided last year, and have promised to provide again, was generally accepted to be excellent value for money.

This year the hotel has agreed to do a carvery in the Entresol Restaurant. Unfortunately this means attendance at the meal will be limited to the first 90 members to apply at the time of the convention.

Those of you who may be interested will find booking forms with your programme notes at the convention. At that time we will be able to provide a copy of the menu and details of the vegetarian options available.

## WATCH WITH MOTHER

How many horses were there on the magic roundabout? What was the name of the driver of Ivor the Engine? The answer to these and many other equally important questions will be revealed to you (provided the contestants know) in this extremely silly quiz. Interested? Want to participate? Then contact Malcolm Reid at the usual address.

## 'THE DEMOLISHED MAN' - MEN IN FANDOM

An all female cast of celebrities and non-entities will give you an idiosyncratic, but objective view on the position of men within fandom, the types encountered and how to avoid the real slimeballs. This may border upon a serious discussion about why so many men have become involved in SF, but it probably won't. Personal vendettas and fetishes welcomed.



## COLLECTORS PANEL

A discussion on what motivates a collector to collect all 600 of a book series or to think he is getting a bargain at £30 for a book which he will never read. The panel will attempt understand these people, what drives them to it and perhaps more importantly how can they afford it all?

## FANCY DRESS

Prizes will be awarded in these categories:-  
Best of show  
Best child entry  
Best craftsmanship  
Best Mars theme entry  
Best/worst pun

## INTERESTING THINGS TO DO AND SEE AT ALBACON 88

This year's programme has something for everyone (O.K. so we forgot about Red Dwarf fans) and we are pushing ahead with some new ideas which, perhaps, you will not have seen at other cons.

The theme of the convention is MARS and its associated subjects. To this end we will, in fact, be celebrating the close approach of the Red Planet to Earth with a reconstruction of the 1938 Orson Welles radio broadcast of "The War of the Worlds". Although the recording is of poor quality in the opening scene it improves vastly as it goes. This programme item is intended to be staged in the bar which will be suitably decorated to suit the season and period in which the play would have been received. All listeners are requested to come dressed for the period (in as far as is economically possible.)

And for all you Sunday Sport readers (wha?) we have a sensational panel of TOP EXPERTS to discuss the EARTH SHATTERING REVELATIONS that have ROCKED THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD. We will be telling you of the AMAZING and SENSATIONAL PHOTOS OF HEAVEN that were taken by a Soviet space probe; the AMERICAN BOMBER PLANE which has been DISCOVERED ON THE MOON and the SORDID, LUST-CRAZED, SAUCY GRANNY PORNO / VICE RING involving the POPE!!! We guarantee that your small, cosy world will NEVER be the same after you hear these ASTOUNDING and PERPLEXING TRUTHS.

The Art Show will complement our Mars theme and there will be a special award for the best Mars entry. Some artist's work will be on show for the first time.

Our special guest Heinz Wolff will be giving a light and humorous scientific talk. Anyone who has been lucky enough

to have been at one of the Professor's lectures or seen him on T.V. will know that he is a first rate entertainer. Don't miss it or your scientific education will be lacking.

In addition to our "War of the Worlds" play we will also have a radio programmes room in which you can sit and enjoy some fascinating radio plays from the '40s, '50s and '60s. We hope to have some rare classics written by masters such as Heinlein, Bradbury, Dick, DeCamp, Siodmak etc.

Something which is also new, and perhaps innovative, at Albacorn is the early morning "Feed-Back" session. We usually leave time for criticisms and complaints regarding the convention till the Monday. This year we have arranged things so that on the Saturday and Sunday mornings you will have a chance to let us know of any problems you may be experiencing. Members of the committee will be on stage and will try their best to respond to your suggestions and resolve any problems which have arisen.

The illustrious Ed Buckley will be presenting a talk on space tourism. Rest assured that it will be up to the usual high standard one comes to expect from this talented debonair.

Late-night fans watch out for Bill Morris' eye-popping religious show "The Very Last Call". Bill (he of "Turkey Buffet" infamy) assures you of a visionary experience as you hear the Gospel of dross SF literature as expounded by omnipresent religious luminaries of our time. This is live theatre folks! Get in early for a pew and bare your soul to the BRAND NEW TESTAMENT of Science Fiction.

# GOH C.J. Cherryh

Marked out with critical attention and expectation early in her career, C.J. Cherryh had by the mid-1980's established herself as a major author. Cherryh's fairly high rate of production (about twenty volumes plus scattered shorter works for the decade ending 1985) may have helped to keep her before the public eye, but more important to her success than quantity has been the quality of her work.

Generally her settings and plot conflicts have been those traditional to science fiction. Most of Cherryh's are adventure S-F novels set either in space or in non-industrial societies planetside. They concern cultural conflict, often as seen from the viewpoint of a typical being.

She has demonstrated a genius for re-animating what in other hands might seem routine or outworn conventions. Both her stylistic control and her characterisation are far above the norm for adventure S-F.

At the same time, Cherryh maintains a stubborn faith in the ability of humans (and other intelligent beings) to overcome adversity, to come to at least a measure of mutual understanding and to spiritual triumph.

However several Cherryh books diverge somewhat from her typical pattern. Some are set in Alliance/Union history but individually even these are less complex than her usual adventure plots, and in all works of this category philosophical themes lie close to the surface. So far these works have not passed over the dividing line separating genre sf/fantasy from surrealism.

"Wave Without a Shore" takes place on the planet "Freedom" whose major cities are Camus and Kierkegaard. "Voyager in Night" is told mostly from the viewpoints of self-aware programs running on an extraterrestrial computer. In a somewhat different vein, "Sunfall" is a collection of stories set in the major cities of Earth's twilight age. The "Dreamstone" series is straight fantasy.

Sometimes Cherryh's work manifests a romantic faith that any other society, in particular any with extended households linking groups larger than the nuclear family, must be preferable to the human West or its successors.

Such romanticism is relatively common in recent sf and genre fantasy. Perhaps more surprisingly a vein of pessimism exists questioning the human condition in many of her works. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, this pessimism does not seem to be hurting C.J.'s popularity; perhaps readers take it as a sign of realism.

A decade or more into her career, Cherryh still has not made her way into the very front rank of sf writers. She is not, however, very far behind, and there remains a strong possibility that she will make up the remaining distance.

## Awards

John W. Campbell Award 1977.  
Hugo Awards: 1979 (Cassandra.)  
1982 (Down Below Station.)  
Balrog Award 1982.

## Novels Published

Angel With a Sword.  
Brother of Earth.  
Chanur's Homecoming.  
Chanur's Venture.  
The Chronicles of Morgaine.  
Cuckoo's Egg.  
Downbelow Station.  
The Dreamstone.  
The Faded Sun Station.  
The Faded Sun Trilogy.  
Fires of Azeroth.  
Forty Thousand in Gehenna.  
Hestia.  
Hunter of Worlds.  
The Kif Strike Back.  
Merchanter's Luck.  
Port Eternity.  
The Pride of Chanur.  
Serpents Reach.  
The Tree of Swords and Jewels.  
Visible Light.  
Voyager in Night.  
Wave Without a Shore.







# GOH Heinz Wolff

Heinz Wolff is best known for his T.V. appearances, most notably "The Great Egg Race" but his true brilliance lies in his scientific career.

At the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford he designed the first automatic blood counting machine as well as becoming involved in the identification of blood clotting factors. After a time at the Radcliffe he saw an advert for someone to measure dust concentration in underground sites for a research unit of the Medical Research Council in Wales. His work on the blood counter made him an obvious choice for someone to create a dust-sampler. The dust-sampler he devised actually weighed the particles rather than counted them. All this had been done before going to university, a significant achievement by any standards. The M.R.C. financed a scholarship to University College London where he studied physiology, spending his vacations working at various departments of the M.R.C.. One of these vacations was spent at the National Institute for Medical Research Council in the Human Physiology division and this was where he decided to continue working when he graduated.

One of the first projects he worked on was for the army, measuring the energy balance of the National Service recruits. For this he developed a robust machine to measure the amount of oxygen a person uses whilst working. The N.I.M.R. asked Heinz to start a Department of Bio-engineering with £700 and one technician. This Department grew and grew until it became an independent division in its own right. Four years later, he was asked to set up a larger Bio-engineering Division at the Clinical Research Centre being built at Harrow. This Division now has annual budget in excess of £1 million, employs 50 staff and occupies over 10,000 square feet.

Even before Prof. Wolff went to Harrow

he was stirring up a whirlwind in the field of physiology, when he first appeared on T.V. demonstrating his "Radio Pill" with David Dimbleby as a subject. By poking Dimbleby in the stomach he could listen to the changes in pressure on a small radio receiver.

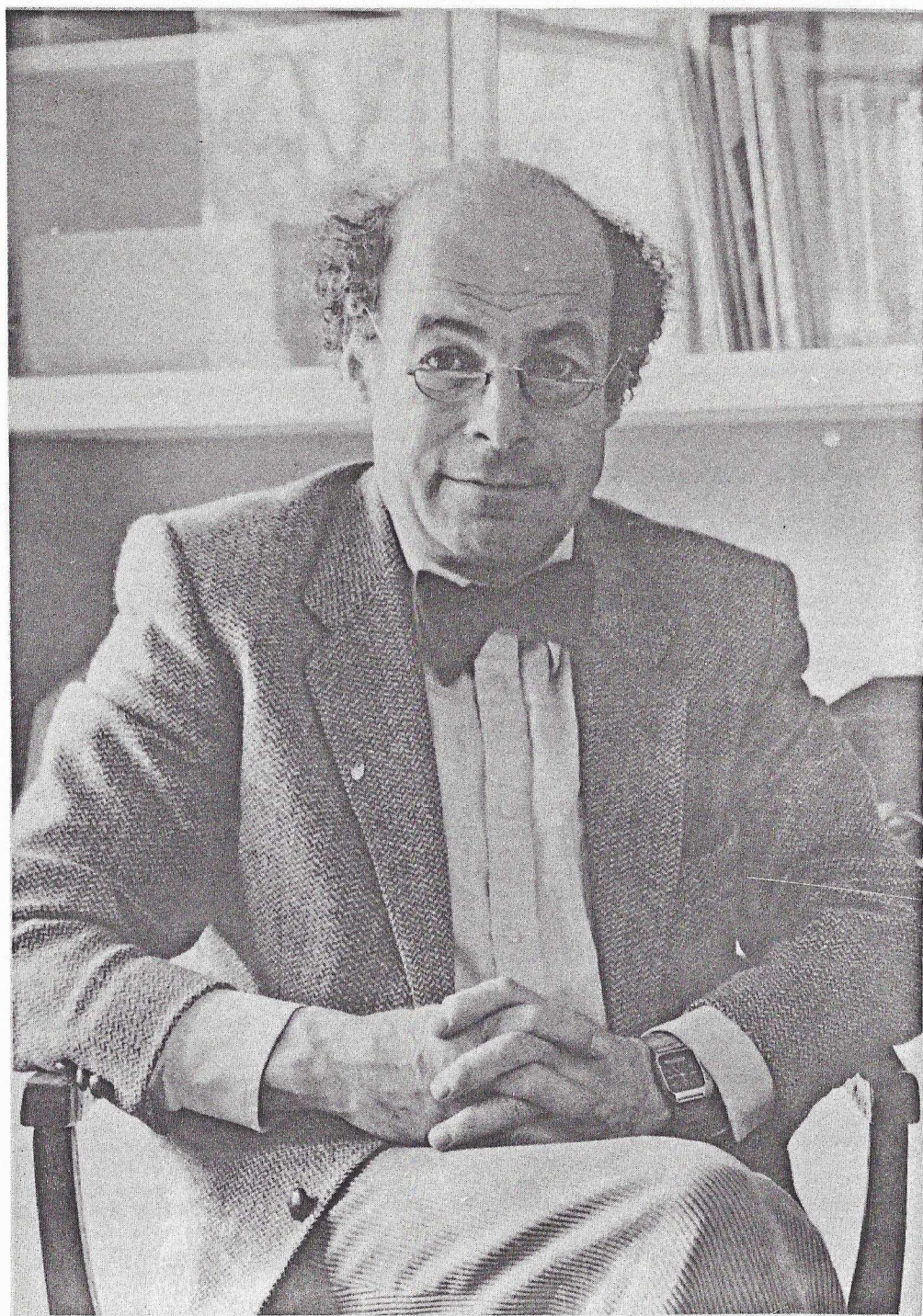
He also helped lay the foundations of ambulatory monitorings. This process is based on tiny tape recorders attached to patients to gain 24 hour records of heart beats and other physiological signals. This kind of work exemplifies Wolff's major interest leading to his involvement with monitoring deep-sea divers and astronauts.

Prof. Wolff left M.R.C. to work on one of his earlier ideas which he called "Tools For Living". The basis of this concept is that "Man is only as good as the tools he has in his hands, he needs them to control his environment .... If someone was deprived of the use of his tools, he would lose control of his environment". Prof. Wolff set up a self-financing body, within the campus of a university, to develop that concept along with others.

In April 1983 Heinz joined Brunel University. The Brunel Institute for Bio-engineering (B.I.B.) pays Brunel University for all its services and finances contracts itself, one of which is to develop systems to investigate microgravity in space. He has persuaded the European Space Agency ( of which he is an honorary member ) to fund a modest experiment on microgravity, and is now developing a system that will grow, harvest and propagate four or five generations of plants to be launched for experimenting on future unmanned E.S.A. spacecraft.

Prof. Wolff says " Really, I'm a technological buff. The more intractable a problem is, the happier I am".







# DEBATE

This house believes that 'Star Wars' (the movie) has been detrimental to science fiction.

## FOR

Duncan Lunan  
Chris Boyce  
to be confirmed

## SPEAKERS

## AGAINST

C.J. Cherryh  
John Braithwaite  
Ken Ingles

## FOR

### THE SENSE OF WONDER RETURNS

One thing that makes science fiction hard to define is the different functions that it fulfils. It can try to predict the future or extrapolate about future technology; it can philosophise about humanity and its place in the Universe; it can satirise or otherwise comment upon present society by examining human behaviour in an unusual environment; it can be a showcase for fine writing; it can be a vehicle for humour; above all it can send the imagination into overdrive, the ultimate drug-free mind trip.

All of these --- and no doubt the list could be extended --- are legitimate concerns of intelligent human beings with a lively sense of individuality. If we could work out what else these aspects have in common, we might begin to approach a definition of SF.

Yet, although it doesn't help us with our definition there is at least one other common factor: none of the above virtues, not even a trace, can be detected within the film called STAR WARS or the deluge of mindless mush which it has propagated.

All right, so some people find it entertaining. Some people are also entertained by DALLAS, PLAYSCHOOL and writing on lavatory walls. That doesn't make any of them a suitable preoccupation for adults of normal intelligence.

OK, I hear you say, so much for this elitist crap. No-one's forcing me, or anyone else, to pay the slightest attention to the Star Wars industry if we don't want to. But it is difficult to ignore. So complete is the media takeover --- via TV, children's toys, breakfast cereals etc. etc. --- of impossible spacecraft, zapping lasers, nauseatingly cute robots, anthropomorphic aliens, that one would need to be a hermit to escape from their brain-numbing influence.

But there is a much, much more serious charge to be made against the Star Wars plague and its partner in treason, the sub-Tolkein fantasy trilogy in ten fat volumes, whose only conceivable usefulness is to be remaindered as toilet paper. For all its short career as a distinct genre, SF has fought to free itself of its pulp image and be recognised as a serious form of literature. Highly regarded "mainstream" writers --- Huxley, Orwell, Burgess, Golding, L.P. Hartley, Doris Lessing, Alasdair Gray, among others --- have produced works that are recognisably within the realm of SF. Writers nurtured by the genre, like Vonnegut or Ballard, have graduated to mainstream recognition. The better magazines of the '50's, the New Wave of the '60's and the '70's, have helped to loosen the genre shackles. Things seemed to be slowly improving.

And now in the '80's comes a multi-



billion backlash of special effects and brainless gadgetry, an endless eruption of goo, an infantile outpouring in which the faintest spark of an idea will be smothered at birth, a non-stop, all-embracing, inescapable discharge that is as stimulating to the brain as a pint of stale beer slops, evokes as much sense of wonder as a stick of chewed out gum and shows less originality than a trodden-on turd. In the face of such a

pervasive hype, so pernicious a libel of true SF, try telling the uncommitted mainstream reader that what we have here is a serious form of literature. You will not get far.

To the perpetrators of STAR WARS and its execrable offspring I have only this to say: may the Force be with you --- where you least expect it and it hurts most!

Angus McAllister

## AGAINST

### 'STAR WARS' - THE DEFENCE INITIATIVE

It is quite a formidable task to cast one's mind back eleven years to a world which had never been graced with 'Star Wars'. Whether your attitude towards the film is one of love or hate, one thing is certain; 'Star Wars' cannot be ignored. I was a mere baby at the time of its release, being only nine years old, and consequently the film made a big impact on me. I was never really aware of a world without 'Star Wars', and it is only now that I can look back and see just what it did for cinema and science fiction history.

Sadly, not everybody shares my attitude to the film, and, after many arguments in the past, I am all too aware of what areas will be used by critics. One of their chief weapons will be condemning the amount of commercialisation the film suffered in the wake of its success. It is all very well to criticise this, but, for a host of people (myself included), it helped to stimulate an interest in all aspects of the genre. Looking back on my own experience, it was only my passion for 'Star Wars' which introduced me to the world of conventions. This in turn encouraged a greater awareness in the joys of mainstream science fiction. I am proud to admit that I am a 'Star Wars' fan, and that I am fond of dressing in costume from time to time, but that doesn't mean that I do not enjoy what is generally considered to be the more intellectual side of the genre.

Another argument that is bound to surface is the 'ah, 'Star Wars' isn't that bad, but what about the rubbish

that followed it?' approach. It is a sad fact of life that anything successful from Hollywood is bound to be repeated in similar forms by a host of people all eager to make as much out of the unsuspecting public as the original had. This has meant that 'Star Wars', somewhat unfairly, has been made to suffer for all the second rate spin-offs that followed it.

'Star Wars' pioneered many of the special effects that we today take for granted. Before it, dogfighting in outer space was unheard of. It gave us a universe whose inhabitants live on a totally different scale, where battlestations the size of moons are the order of the day. And, more importantly, it gave us a universe which was real. Ships are tatty and battered, clothes are worn and shabby, and the heroine does not wear skimpy revealing clothes and scream all the time (not often anyway!). The world of 'Star Wars' is a world where science is inconceivably better than ours. They take their world with its hyperdrives and ion engines for granted, and so should we. We are, after all, devotees of science fiction, and not science fact. 'Star Wars' should be seen within that context.

Louise Turner



## "COFFEE WITH MY SUGAR, WAITER !"

Or How I Learned To Survive Albacon Without Paying Medical Fees.

A few years ago, at a Glasgow con, a man collapsed in the toilets and ended up in hospital for a week, all because he drank too much alcohol on an empty stomach. As medic for Albacon, that was my worst nightmare come true and thankfully, I have had no more near-fatalities since. As this is the last PR before the convention here are the four basic rules of survival at a con.

1) **ALCOHOL:** DO NOT DRINK ON AN EMPTY STOMACH. Have a reasonably good meal before you embark on any drinking spree, spread out your drinking with non-alcoholic drinks in between and definitely DO NOT MIX YOUR DRINKS.

2) **HANGOVERS:** the best cure is not to get one in the first place but if you lose your grip here is what to do. Drink as much water as you can take before you go to sleep over and always lie on your side (should you vomit you won't choke), lastly get someone to keep a check on you or ask the medic!

3) **FOOD:** Have at least one good meal a day. Try a proper meal: Pizzaland is cheap and filling. If you buy any food that is cooked in the microwave you MUST

let it cook for the correct time and then sit for 30 secs when it is removed as the cooking is still in progress.

4) **SLEEP:** VITAL TO SURVIVE ANY CON! Each person can survive on a certain amount of lost sleep but it can't go on for ever. Caffeine pills are NOT recommended, but if you must use them, use them sparingly and when you can, catch some natural sleep, you will feel much better for it.

If you are taking any form of regular medication, please make sure that you have enough for the weekend and check any tablets you are taking, in case there are anticipated side effects to alcohol. This is true of many antibiotics.

If you feel unwell at anytime during the con, ask one of the committee or hotel staff to bleep me. Any information like dental treatment, prescriptions or medical history you feel I should be aware of - get in touch with me. I will treat it with the confidence it deserves.

Contact address: Michelle Drayton, 31 Graham Terr., Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64

Never Mind The Hard Sell  
READ THE MAGAZINE

# TEN GRAND

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## MEMBERSHIPS

Our membership rates are:

	Attending	Supporting
to 15th July	£12	£6
On the door	£14	
Presupporting members receive a	£1 reduction.	

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY POST AFTER 15TH JULY.

## DEALERS ROOM

All dealers requiring tables should book now as demand is high. The rate is £12 per table - to be paid before the convention.

## ADVERTISING

Adverts should be supplied A4 or A5, camera ready and allow 10mm margins. Photos and half tones should be dot-screened and payment should accompany adverts. The rates are:

	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page
Programme Notes	£20	£10	£7
Souvenir Book	£30	£15	£8

There is a 20% discount for fans.

Deadlines are:

Programme Notes 30th June  
Souvenir Book 31st Aug.

## AUCTIONS

Albacon will take 10% commission on all bids.

## PROGRAMME BOOK

As previously stated in PRL there will NOT be a programme book for members at the convention. Instead Albacon will give all members Programme Notes which will give details of the programme and other information relevant to the convention. After the convention members will be sent a Souvenir Book containing a permanent record of the convention,

its guests, its members and any embarrassing or interesting photos.

## HOTEL - AN APOLOGY

As many of you are already aware we have had some problems with hotel reservations. However, for the most part these are now resolved. As there are no beds remaining in the Central, Albacon has now arranged overflow accommodation in two nearby hotels, the Hospitality Inn and the Buchanan Hotel, thus giving us sufficient bed spaces for our members.

Confirmation of bookings have also proved problematic and we have just learnt that the Central no longer confirms bookings unless specifically requested to do so. Consequently we have now taken over this responsibility ourselves and confirmation slips for the Central are enclosed with this PR. Other hotels will still issue confirmations themselves. If you do not receive confirmation please contact us and we will investigate the situation for you.

Since we are now dealing with three hotels the committee have taken over the coordination of bookings and all hotel forms should now be sent to the usual address. To help us when booking your room we ask you to indicate to us to us in order of preference, the type of room you would like. We shall ensure that, wherever possible, everybody will get their first choice of room type but the additional selections will help if we run out of one type of room.

## ALBACON WEAPONS POLICY.

This years committee has decided that the following will NOT be allowed in the convention hotel :-

Any form of bladed weapon larger than a Swiss Army knife; projectile weapons, whether water or otherwise; replica weapons; laser-tag; any other objects of danger to decor or decorum.

However in the case of entries to the Fancy Dress, exceptions to the above can be negotiated through Malcolm Reid at the convention address.



**By rail** If arriving at Queen Street Station leave by the exit at the end of the platforms (past Casey Jones) into Queen Street. Continue for two blocks then turn right (at the Halifax Building Society) into Exchange Square. Leave the square through the arches and cross the pedestrian precinct into Gordon Street. Now you simply continue that way for a further three blocks and finally turn left into the Central Hotel.

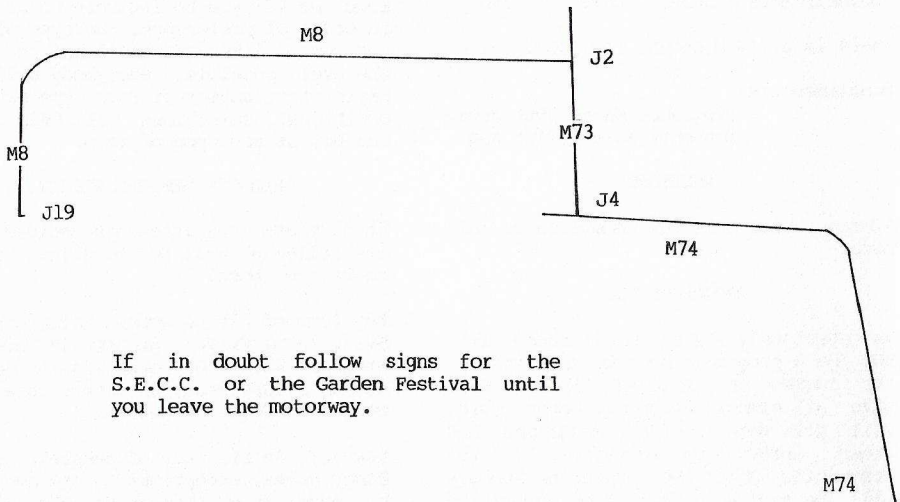
Alternatively if you arrive at Central Station you simply cross the platform and will find the hotel in the far left corner of the station (next to the Booking Office).

**By bus** Leave Buchanan Street Bus Station through the Terminus, turn right and continue to the traffic lights where you should turn left into West Nile Street. Continue south for five blocks where you turn right (at the telephone shop) into Gordon Street. Continue for two blocks. Congratulations you are now at the Central -collect £200 as you pass Go!

**By car** Leave the M74 at junction 4 to join the M73. Almost immediately you should exit by junction 2 onto the M8. Continue for 8 miles. You are now passing through the city centre and should move over to left and leave the motorway by junction 19. At the traffic lights turn left and continue till you come to the 4th set of traffic lights. You will now be forced to turn left into Hope Street. At the next set of lights, on the right, is your target (The Central Hotel).

#### RAIL DEAL

As promised in the last PR we enclose details of cheap rail travel. Unfortunately, the promised discount bus travel fell through and we apologise to those of you who had been intending to travel by bus on this offer. However this is probably a blessing in disguise for those yet to experience the myriad delights offered by the orange death mobiles commonly known as buses.





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